

creature, has the property of sticking close, and sucking any body it is applied to. Such is their extraordinary power of adhesion to stones, that we are told of one which weighed but three pounds, and yet it stuck so firmly to a stone of twelve pounds, that it remained suspended at its mouth, from which it was separated with difficulty.

Naturalists ascribe this wonderful power of suction in the animal, to its exhausting the air within its body by the hole over the nose, while the mouth is closely fixed to the object, permitting no air to enter. If this be really the cause, the weight which the fish will be able to sustain may pretty accurately be determined; for it will be equal to the weight of a column of air of the same diameter as the mouth of the fish.

The power of adhesion in the lamprey may also perhaps be somewhat increased by that slimy substance with which its body is all over smeared; a substance that serves equally to preserve its skin soft and pliant, and to keep it in a proper degree of warmth in the watery element. Two lymphatic glands, extending on each side from the head to the tail, serve to separate this mucus, and furnish it in great abundance.

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